

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR : The Land Revenue Commissioner might have taken the statistics but they are not available here.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Without such statistics how could the Government judge of the volume of work turned out by the respective collectors ?

PRESIDENT : The honourable member who is answering for Government is new to the work. I may say that because it was found that the existing machinery was not adequate and because this officer distinguished himself in finding out cases and because he was found to do specially good work, Government thought it necessary to give him a small allowance. When Government revenues have been augmented by his work, it is not too much to give him an allowance. It is not always necessary merely to punish an officer for bad work, it is also necessary to reward an officer for good work.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know the amount received as tax from shipping ?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR : Sir, it does not arise out of this question.

PRESIDENT : It does not arise out of this question. I may say that Government have recently made it a point to levy a tax on tramp steamers. Has it come into operation, Mr. Accountant General ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : It has not yet come into operation.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : What is the amount expected ?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : It will be less than half a lakh.

PRESIDENT : The tramp steamers do not belong to companies in this State. Even in British India that difficulty was found and so they resorted to taxation of such steamers.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know which of the Income Tax Collectors brought this to the pointed attention of Government ?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR : The Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax:

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know if the Government can say which of the Income Tax Collectors brought this to his notice ?

MR. S. RAMAKRISHNA AIYAR : I am not in a position to answer that.

Registry of the Palkulam Tank for the manufacture of salt.

55 * **MR. G. VELU PILLAI (Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli) :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether any land known as the "Palkulam Tank" in South Travancore has been registered in the name of any person or company for the manufacture of salt and if so, in whose name;

(b) whether the registry was sanctioned subject to any conditions;

(c) whether one of the conditions was that a certain percentage of shares in the business should be held by Travancoreans;

(d) if so, whether these conditions were observed and are being adhered to now;

(e) if not, why not; and

(f) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (a) No. The land was not registered but leased out for salt manufacture to the Palkulam Salts Ltd.

(b) The lease was sanctioned subject to certain conditions.

(c) One of the conditions was that Travancoreans should be given a chance to take shares at least up to 45 per cent.

(d) & (e) The condition was observed and at the time the company was registered 45 per cent of the shares was in the name of Travancoreans. But they have since transferred their shares to the other non-Travancorean members of the Company.

(f) No; such transfers are regrettable but not illegal.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know when it was leased out?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Two years ago.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know when the transfer of shares was made?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Almost immediately after that. This department got information about it only recently.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI, May I know whether the company is now under the management of non-Travancoreans alone?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The company is managed by a manager who is a non-Travancorean.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether all the shares are held by the non-Travancoreans?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I cannot say definitely, but my information is that most of the shares are held by non-Travancoreans.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether that is a ground for revoking the lease?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: No, Sir,

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the approximate number of shares held by Travancoreans?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The information is not available now.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The question relates to forty five per cent of the share holders. I am asking as a supplementary question what is the total number of Travancoreans who have got shares in the Company.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: The number is not fixed in the agreement. It may be one or more. And even then the shares might have now been transferred.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether it is a private or public limited company?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I think it is a private company—I am open to correction.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know the names of the Directors?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I cannot give the information from memory.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether there was an agreement between the partners that when the shares were sold, every partner will be consulted ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Government are not aware of it. That is an agreement between partners.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : With regard to answer to part (b), may I know why the condition did not include that forty five per cent of the shares should be allotted to Travancoreans ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : It was not thought necessary to include it at that time.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know why the condition did not include that the shares allotted to Travancoreans shall not be transferred ?

PRESIDENT : Supposing a man, who has got a share, wants money. What is he to do ? Does it mean that he ought not to sell it and thus get money ? We must leave it to local patriotism.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know why the conditions did not include that the shares allotted to Travancoreans shall not be transferred to non-Travancoreans ?

PRESIDENT : Is it possible to say that no shares will ever be transferred ? Supposing no Travancorean is coming forward to purchase a share, does it mean that a share holder ought not to sell the share at all ?

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Has the Allom begun to yield profit ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : No, it has begun to yield salt from last year ?

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : What is the amount of profit last year ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I cannot say that definitely now.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : May I know whether the so called Travancoreans were merely the nominees of non-Travancoreans ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I do not know.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : “പുട്ടാശിപണി” ഈ അളത്തിൽ നിറുത്താനുള്ള കാരണമെന്താണ് ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : പുട്ടാശി പണി നിറുത്തിയതിൽ പലക്കും സങ്കടമുണ്ട്. പക്ഷേ അത് ഈ അളത്തിൽ മാത്രമല്ല വേറേയും അളങ്ങളിൽ നിറുത്തിയിരിക്കുകയാണ്.

PRESIDENT : I think the matter requires to be made clear. There has been a disposition evinced by this House that as far as possible the salt industry should be nationalised or sought to be nationalised and therefore when an opportunity arose, Government decided that they should, when they gave a lease to a company, get a percentage of the profits of the company. This Palkulam Salt Company is bound to pay about 10 per cent of the profits to Government.

[President]

It was on that basis license was given and it was made a condition that forty five per cent of the shares should be open to Travancoreans. Government have a suspicion though they have no certainty in the matter that as indicated in one of the questions, the so-called Travancoreans were stalking horses or benamdars or whatever name you call it. The moment it was registered, efforts were made to re-register it to non-Travancoreans. It is a regrettable feature. Government do still persevere in their attempts to get this company issued in the name of Travancoreans with the necessary shares held by Travancoreans. There is nothing to prevent a Travancorean to transfer his shares to a non-Travancorean, and to lay down a condition that the shares should not be transferred would create very many difficulties in some cases. In some cases such a step may be justifiable. Suppose a Travancorean has some shares and he wants to sell them and no Travancorean is prepared to come forward to take them, he will be put to difficulties. In that case, he must have the convenience to sell them to non-Travancoreans. It is for that reason I made it very clear : that is a matter in which local patriotism should have its full operation.

Motor Checking Stations.

56 * MR P. SIVARAMA PILLAI (*Meenachil cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) how many motor checking stations are there in the State ;
- (b) whether the necessary buildings have been constructed or taken on rent for this purpose ;
- (c) whether there is any Government building or rented building for the checking station at Palai ; and
- (d) whether the necessary furniture is provided in these stations ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G.S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : (a) 39.

(b) Yes.

(c) The checking station at Palai is housed in a private building for which no rent is paid.

(d) 13 Checking Stations have been provided with furniture.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : With reference to answer to part (c), am I to take it that the checking station is still housed in the veranda of that private building ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : I am told that the checking station is held in the veranda of the private building.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : May I know whether it is a house or a tea shop ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : I am told that is a private building. I am not aware whether it is a house or some other thing as is now suggested by the honourable member.